

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 27, 1998

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 105**

**Introduced by Senator Watson**  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Gallegos)

August 26, 1998

---

---

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 105—Relative to  
newborn hearing screening.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 105, as amended, Watson. Newborn hearing  
screening.

This measure would establish the State Newborn Hearing Screening Intervention Task Force. This measure would encourage the department to seek the advice of the task force with regard to approaches for a system to screen all newborns and infants for hearing loss, allow the task force to monitor implementation of the program, consult with the State Department of Education, Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education, ~~to identify methods of making newborn hearing screening available to all California Children's Services hospitals, maintain a system of assessment and followup services,~~ *in order that the department may provide local education agencies, with information on infants suspected or confirmed with hearing loss for the purpose of making services available to the family as required by federal law* and develop a plan for presentation to the Legislature that would expand the program to effectively screen 95% of all infants born in general acute care hospitals.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, The State Department of Health Services  
2 is required to administer various programs relating to  
3 infant and child health; and

4 WHEREAS, The State Department of Education is  
5 granted specific responsibilities relating to the education  
6 of the deaf and hard of hearing; and

7 WHEREAS, Hearing loss occurs in newborns more  
8 frequently than any other health condition for which  
9 newborn screening is currently required; and

10 WHEREAS, Early detection of hearing loss, early  
11 intervention, and followup services before six months of  
12 age have been demonstrated to be highly effective in  
13 facilitating a child's health development in a manner  
14 consistent with the child's age and cognitive ability; and

15 WHEREAS, The State Newborn Hearing Screening  
16 Intervention Task Force shall be established to advise the  
17 Newborn and Infant Hearing Screening, Tracking, and  
18 Intervention Program established by the State  
19 Department of Health Services; now, therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the*  
21 *Assembly thereof concurring,* That the State Newborn  
22 Hearing Screening Intervention Task Force is hereby  
23 established, to be composed of 20 members as follows:

24 (a) Three nonvoting ex officio members, as follows:

25 (1) The Director of Health Services or his or her  
26 designee.

27 (2) The Director of Developmental Services or his or  
28 her designee.

29 (3) The Superintendent of Public Instruction or his or  
30 her designee.

31 (b) The 17 voting members shall be as follows:

32 (1) One speech pathologist with background in or  
33 knowledge of providing services to infants with hearing  
34 loss.

35 (2) One pediatrician-neonatologist with background  
36 in or knowledge of infant hearing screening.

37 (3) One otolaryngologist with background in or  
38 knowledge in infant hearing screening.

39 (4) One audiologist with background in or knowledge  
40 of providing services to infants with hearing loss.

1 (5) One representative of a hospital involved in  
2 providing infant hearing screening.

3 (6) Four consumers, two who are deaf and two who  
4 are hard of hearing, recommended by recognized state  
5 organizations representing deaf and hard of hearing  
6 people.

7 (7) Two parents of children with hearing loss  
8 recommended by recognized state organizations  
9 representing parents of children who are deaf or hard of  
10 hearing.

11 (8) Two certified teachers of the deaf, one from a  
12 public school early intervention services program and  
13 one from a state school early intervention services  
14 program.

15 (9) One representative from the State Department of  
16 Education, Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
17 Education.

18 (10) One representative from the Coalition of  
19 Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.

20 (11) One representative of the State Department of  
21 Developmental Services or his or her designee.

22 (12) One representative recommended by the State  
23 Department of Health Services; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the State Department of Health  
25 Services is encouraged to comply with all of the following:

26 (a) Seek the advice of the State Newborn Hearing  
27 Screening Intervention Task Force with regard to  
28 approaches for a system to screen all newborns and  
29 infants for hearing loss.

30 (b) Allow the State Newborn Hearing Screening  
31 Intervention Task Force to monitor implementation of  
32 the Newborn and Infant Hearing Screening, Tracking,  
33 and Intervention Program.

34 (c) Consult with the State Department of Education,  
35 Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education, ~~to identify~~  
36 ~~methods of making newborn hearing screening available~~  
37 ~~to all California Children's Services hospitals.~~

38 ~~(d) Maintain a system of assessment and followup~~  
39 ~~services.~~

1 ~~(e)~~in order that the department may provide local  
2 education agencies (LEAs) with information on infants  
3 suspected or confirmed with hearing loss for the purpose  
4 of making services available to the family as required by  
5 federal law.

6 (d) Develop a plan for presentation to the Legislature  
7 that would expand the Newborn and Infant Hearing  
8 Screening, Tracking, and Intervention Program to  
9 effectively screen 95 percent of all infants born in general  
10 acute care hospitals; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a  
12 copy of this resolution to the author for appropriate  
13 distribution.

